

In the Claims:

Please add new claim 40. Please amend claims 1-5, 10-11, 14-17, 19 and 34-35 as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:
an elongated body; and
a plurality of concave slots formed on the elongate body;
wherein a first bottom surface of each concave slot is substantially flat in a first cross section and a second surface is substantially curved in a second cross section.
 2. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first cross section is taken along an X-Y plane wherein the first bottom surface is substantially flat in the X direction and perpendicular to the second cross section is taken along a second plane defined by the X direction and a normal to the X-Y plane.
 3. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in a radial cross section of the medical device.
 4. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 3, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in an axial cross section of the medical device.
 5. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in a axial cross section of the medical device.

6. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of concave slots are formed in a stainless steel portion of the elongated body.

7. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of concave slots are formed in a plastic portion of the elongated body.

8. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a needle.

9. (Original) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the first cross section is perpendicular to the second cross section.

10. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in a radial cross section of the medical device.

11. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 8, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in an axial cross section of the medical device.

12. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a catheter.

13. (Original) The medical device of claim 12, wherein the first cross section is perpendicular to the second cross section.

14. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 12, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in a radial cross section of the medical device.

15. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 12, wherein the first bottom surface of at least one of the concave slots is substantially flat in an axial cross section of the medical device.

16. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1 further comprising a contoured surface on the elongate body, the plurality of concave slots being formed in the contoured surface, wherein the first bottom surface of each concave slot ~~has a bottom surface that~~ follows the contours of the contoured surface and each concave slot has curved side surfaces at each end of the bottom surface.

17. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the first bottom surface is convex.

18. (Original) The medical device of claim 16, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.

19. (Currently Amended) A medical device, comprising:
a contoured surface having a plurality of concave slots formed thereon, wherein each concave slot has a bottom surface having a first and second end, wherein the bottom surface that follows the contours of the contoured surface in a direction between the first and second end and wherein each concave slot has curved side surfaces at each end of the bottom surface.

20. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the bottom surface is convex.

21. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.

22. (Original) The medical device of claim 20, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.
23. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the contoured surface is made of stainless steel.
24. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the contoured surface is made of plastic.
25. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the medical device is a needle.
26. (Original) The medical device of claim 25, wherein the bottom surface is convex.
27. (Original) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.
28. (Original) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.
29. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the medical device is a catheter.
30. (Original) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the bottom surface is convex.
31. (Original) The medical device of claim 29, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.
32. (Original) The medical device of claim 30, wherein the curved side surfaces are concave.

33. (Original) The medical device of claim 19 further comprising a plurality of concave slots formed on the contoured surface, wherein a surface of each concave slot is substantially flat in a first cross section and is substantially curved in a second cross section, the first cross section being perpendicular to the second cross section.

34. (Currently Amended) A medical instrument adapted to be inserted into a body, comprising:

an outer surface having a plurality of concave slots formed thereon, wherein a first bottom surface of each concave slot is substantially flat in a first cross section and a side surface of each concave slot is substantially curved in a second cross section.

35. (Currently Amended) The medical device of claim 1, , wherein the first cross section is taken along an X-Y plane wherein the first bottom surface is substantially flat in a X direction and perpendicular to the second cross section is taken along a second plane defined by the X direction and a normal to the X-Y plane.

36. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein ~~the~~ each surface is made of stainless steel.

37. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein ~~the~~ each surface is made of plastic.

38. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the medical device is a needle.

39. (Original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the medical device is a catheter.

40. (New) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the outer surface is configured to be directly inserted into the body .

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